

Lake Huntington, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the the Lake Huntington Fire Company has been awarded \$80,503 in federal grant funding to purchase 14 new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units, which includes the packs, masks, bottles, and spare bottles that ensure firefighters have breathable air when entering dangerous environments. The funding is provided through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The members of the Lake Huntington Fire Company are heroes in the truest sense of the word," said Hinchey. "They put their lives on the line to protect us and they deserve the very best equipment to ensure they remain as safe as possible. The self contained breathing apparatus units they will purchase with this grant will help do just that. I have been and will continue to be a staunch supporter of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, because I know how important it is to stand up for those who serve our communities."

This is the third AFG grant the department has received. They previously used federal grants in 2007 and 2009 to purchase new turnout gear, a thermal imaging camera, and a special washing machine to clean turnout gear.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$18.7 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

Hinchey has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. For the most current information regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, please visit www.firegrantsupport.com.